The role of women, as participants and visitors.

6. Future organising committees need to give serious thought as to how to involve women in these Exhibitions. Means should be sought for women to participate on their own stalls, if possible. Also, it is recommended that a specific day/s be assigned only to women visitors. Many women may have been discouraged from attending because of the often crowded conditions.

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Problems arising from verbal agreements.

7. A verbal agreement with the Spin Ghar Hotel Management later resulted in a misunderstanding. ie. it was initially agreed that the site be made available free of charge. With the departure of the Manager of the Hotel, the new management indicated that a payment was necessary. It is recommended that any agreement related to Exhibition arrangements, be confirmed in writing.

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Appendix 1

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES	No. of Stalls
AABRAR - Afghan Amputee Bicyclists for Rehab & Recreation	2
AGTTP - Afghan German Technical Training Programme	2
AITM - Afghan Inkishafee Tarbiawee Markaz	1
AREA - Agency for Rehab & Energy Conservation in Afghanistan	3
BDA - Bakhtar D'ment Agency	1
BEFARe - Basic Education for Afghan Refugees	2
DCA - Dutch Committee for Afghanistan	1
IPH - Institute of Public Health	1
IRC - International Rescue Committee	4
- International Rescue Committee/RAP	1
ISRA - Islamic Relief Agency	5
MADERA	1
MCPA - Mine Clearance Planning Agency	2
MDC - Mine Detection Dog Centre	1
MSF HealthNet	1
NPO - Norwegian Project Office	1
OMAR - Organ. for Mine Awareness & Recons.	2
RB - Radda Barnen	1
SCA/NRO Swedish Committee for Afghanistan	2
SERVE - Serving Emerg Relief,Voc Enter. P.H.	1
- Serving Emerg relief,Voc Enter SSBA	2
SJAWO - Sayed Jamaluddin Afgh Welfare Assoc	2
SOS-PG - Solidarites Afghanistan-Belgium	5
UNDCP	1
UNICEF	1
TOTAL..	46

* Note: BBC initially indicated their participation, but did not attend.

Appendix 2

MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Dr. Qasem Alemzada Chairman,	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan
Ghulam Gul	SOS/PG Belguim
Dr. Mirza Jan	ISRA
Shafiq Ahmad	ACBAR
Nancy Dupree	ARIC/ACBAR
Margaret Reid	ACBAR

Assistance at the Exhibition

Naqib A. Noory, Programme Manager	ACBAR
Ahmad Javed Ludin, Translator	ACBAR

Expenditure

A summary breakdown of expenditure is as follows;

Exhibition Receipts		Rs 47,000
Expenses		
Hired equipment, etc	Rs 22,016	
Accommodation	Rs 1,980	
DCA expenses - morning tea.	Rs 565	
Spin Ghar Hotel	Rs 4,000	
Other Expenses	Rs 4,358	
Video Production and Editing	Rs 11,400	
Shamyana Purchase	Rs 1,500	
Total	Rs 45,819	
Balance Remaining		Rs 1,181

*The balance remaining will cover ACBAR costs.

ACBAR

AGENCY COORDINATING BODY
FOR AFGHAN RELIEF

REPORT ON

ACBAR EASTERN ZONE AFGHAN TRAINING PROGRAMMES EXHIBITION

17th - 19th April, 1995

Jalalabad, Afghanistan

July, 1995

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The third Afghan Training Programmes Exhibition (ATPE) was conducted from 17th-19th April 1995 in Jalalabad, by the ACBAR Training Sub-Committee. It was the first time the Exhibition had been held inside Afghanistan.

The holding of this Exhibition in Afghanistan is significant. It expresses confidence and optimism, and showed the people of Nangarhar, Kunar and Laghman at first hand, the valuable work being achieved by NGOs in this region. There have been many requests to return, and to hold similar events in other Provinces, indicating the level of interest that this Exhibition inspired.

Staff of agencies were on hand to demonstrate, inform and educate visitors regarding their training activities. Twenty three agencies conducting programmes in Nangarhar, Kunar and Laghman, participated by organizing forty six stalls.

ACBAR would like to express its special gratitude to Dr. Sayed Qasem Alemzada of DCA, Chairman of the Training Sub-Committee; members of the Organizing Committee, Naqib Noory and Javed Ludin, ACBAR staff members, the Nangarhar shura and especially the many Agencies who displayed informative, interesting and professional presentations.

Special thanks are also due to Mr. Farouq, Manager of the Spin Ghar Hotel for his cooperation and assistance, which helped make the Exhibition successful.

Charles A MacFadden
Executive Director
ACBAR, Peshawar

INTRODUCTION

The Afghan Training Programmes Exhibition held in Jalalabad was the third organised by the ACBAR Training Sub-Committee, following similar events in December, 1991 and November, 1993, in Peshawar.

Following on the success of the earlier Exhibitions, the Training Sub-Committee decided to arrange a 1995 Exhibition, this time inside Afghanistan.

The city of Jalalabad was chosen as the most suitable venue, for ease of access, and to accommodate the numerous NGOs active in community based training in this region. Participation was limited to agencies undertaking training in the three eastern Provinces of Nangarhar, Kunar and Laghman.

The key objectives of the Training Programmes Exhibition were -

a) To inform the public regarding the wide range of training activities being undertaken by NGOs, in many sectors, in the Eastern Provinces;

b) To counter criticism regarding NGO inactivity, by displaying a variety of programmes, which are not otherwise known to the community. To raise awareness about where funds are utilised;

c) To share and exchange information on current training programmes, between NGOs and others interested in the field of training.

The Exhibition was held in the gardens of the Spin Ghar Hotel, Jalalabad.

A total of 23 agencies participated in the exhibition, and organized 46 stalls displaying various trades and training activities. A list of agencies is attached as Appendix I to the report.

Mr. Ghani Hidayat, Director, Teacher Training Institute, Nangarhar, officially opened the exhibition. Other special guests included Mohammad Ahmed Mao, Officer in Charge, UNOCHA, and Directors of Agencies.

Mr. Francis Okelo, Director, OSGAP, was invited to the closing ceremony of the exhibition. Mr. Okelo thanked ACBAR; the Training Sub-Committee and participating NGOs for their joint efforts in conducting a very successful exhibition. He commented that "the sky was also pleased with the exhibition, and that's why it sent its blessing" (the rain). He concluded by expressing the hope that the exhibition would be held in other parts of

Afghanistan.

Agencies provided at least two staff members per stall, who explained Agency activities and answered visitor's questions.

A very pleasing feature of the Exhibition was the high standard of presentation by Agencies. Stalls were well organized, displaying posters, charts, samples of products produced by trainees, and with videos showing Agency activities. Some Agencies provided live demonstrations of their work, and these were much appreciated by the public.

Calculating the number of visitors to the Exhibition is difficult, but average numbers have been estimated at 800 - 1000 per day, despite rain throughout the Exhibition period. The exhibition covered three days. Visitors were mainly from Jalalabad city, but NGO staff and others from Kunar and Laghman Provinces also visited. A visitor's comment book was maintained. A video cassette was recorded by MADERA.

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OBSERVATIONS ON THE EXHIBITION - VISITORS

In order to obtain comments from the public, 2 registers were kept for recording comments and suggestions, one in Pushto/Dari and the other in English.

The overall impression of visitors was very favourable. Many citizens welcomed the presentation of the Exhibition in Jalalabad, and hoped it could be held in other parts of the country in the future. They gained hope and were encouraged by the scope and variety of programmes, and expressed optimism that their country was really rebuilding again.

Only two negative opinions were recorded - general comments about improper use of funds by NGOs.

Some visitors took the opportunity to congratulate NGOs on their work and to urge them to do more for Afghanistan.

Almost all comments regarding the management of the Exhibition were positive. However, the statements of some visitors indicated that in their view, improvements could be made -

> "The Exhibition was too short";
> "Better advertising is needed";
> "Recommend sale of products at subsidised prices";

Extracts from the comments are held on file at ACBAR.

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OBSERVATIONS ON THE EXHIBITION - PARTICIPANTS

Participant NGOs were asked to complete an evaluation form following the Exhibition. 13 responses were received from 8 Agencies.

It was unanimously agreed that the Exhibition was successful in informing the public about NGO activities. The main issues of concern related to the cramped conditions, difficulties arising from wet weather, and the setting-up stage of the Exhibition. Security and insufficient advertising were other concerns.

The main concerns are addressed in the following summary of recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE EXHIBITIONS

Confusion resulting from change of date.

1. **Insufficient response was received from agencies by the initial closing date given by the Organising Committee. In this case it was therefore necessary to change the date of the Exhibition, to allow for more agencies to participate. However it would be preferable to avoid changing the date in future.**

Many logistical problems resulted from organising the Exhibition from a distance. It is therefore recommended that, 7 to 8 weeks notice be given to participants, for Exhibitions within Afghanistan.

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Insufficient organising support at the site of the Exhibition.

2. **It is recommended that in future, NGO field staff should be better represented on the organising committee. They will then be able to provide the necessary support on site, at the time of the Exhibition. A presence of at least two members of the Committee should continue throughout the Exhibition.**

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Rain caused the site to become very muddy, and problems were also encountered by inadequate coverage overhead, resulting in some displays being affected by water.

3. **Site choice should be reconsidered - asphalt or sand should be selected to avoid mud during rain. Other alternatives which should be considered are to change the season, or have an indoor location.**

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Plastic sheets loaned by UNHCR for protecting stalls from rain, were not returned by some agencies.

4. **In future, NGOs should be requested to sign and take responsibility for any borrowed equipment or materials.**

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